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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8, with the following redlined paragraph:

The sixth table row involves a rule wherein content switching is based on the extensible markup language (XML) tag present in the packet. XML information may be present in the packet in a location different from the HTTP header. An embodiment of a technique to use content switching based on XML content in a packet is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/731,979 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 350078.412)~~, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOAD BALANCING BASED ON XML CONTENT IN A PACKET," filed <sup>(U.S. pat. pending)</sup> concurrently herewith on December 10, 2003, with inventor Anilkumar Gunturu, assigned to the same assignee as the present application, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1, with the following redlined paragraph:

At a block 404, conversion of nested rules into their sum of products or "minterm" representation is performed. In this minterm form, a nested rule is broken down into a set of minterms summed together. Although the nested rule may have both "&" and "|" operators, each minterm will have only the "&" operator. For example if  $r_n$  is a nested rule, and  $r_a$ ,  $r_b$ , and  $r_c$  are simple rules satisfying the relation  $r_n = (r_a | r_b) \& r_c$ , the nested rule  $r_n$  can also be represented as  $r_n = (r_a \& r_c) | (\cancel{r_a \& r_b})(r_b \& r_c)$ . The minterms of the nested rule  $r_n$  are thus  $(r_a \& r_c)$  and  $(\cancel{r_a \& r_b})(r_b \& r_c)$ . These minterms may be placed in a minterm table or other suitable data structure.